



Guardian East



Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East)

At a glance



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Soldiers awarded Purple Heart after suffering injuries in Klokot explosion



Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo – Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, pins a Purple Heart on the chest of Sgt. Jerry Burge today at the medical facility on Camp Bondsteel. Meigs presented Sgt. Dominic Higgins, inset, with a Purple Heart in the same ceremony. Higgins and Burge, both of Company B, 54th Engineer Battalion, based in Bamberg Germany, were injured by an explosion in Klokot, while moving toward the site of an earlier explosion to look for civilian casualties. The soldiers are assigned to Task Force 1-18 Infantry at Camp Magrath.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Camp Pride lowers colors

By Patrick Rodriguez
Staff writer

CAMP MONTEITH – Over-looking the picturesque village of Pones, the little house and observation post on top of the hill that is the foundation for Camp Pride and home to Company C, Task Force 1-77 Armor — Steel Tigers — is closing its doors for good.

After three years, six task forces and 360 Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers, MNB(E) has sent its last soldier to Camp Pride.

Battalion Command. Sgt. Maj. John Fourham, of TF 1-77 Armor, addressed the soldiers in their last formation at Camp Pride about a job well done but not finished. "We are not leaving," Fourham said. "We will continue to work in the community and be a presence in the community. We just did away with the need to maintain a permanent hard site."

"To all the soldiers that have



Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez
Camp Pride soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, lower the colors during the camp closing ceremony.

stood at this gate, stood back at that tower, both day and night, rain or shine, my heartfelt thanks. You met the mission every day," said Capt. Matthew S. Kinhead, commander of C Co., 1-77 Armor Bn, during the flag-lowering ceremony.

Everything will be re-

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501st soldiers escort IDPs on 'Look see' visit

By Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson
Staff Writer

After a three-year absence, six Serbs returned to property they still own in the mostly ethnic Albanian village of Donje Nerodimlje.

Members of the 501st Mechanized Battalion escorted the internally displaced people back to their former residences. "Our job is to escort the Serb IDPs who have fled from the region after the war," said 1st Lt. Georgios Ragos, of the 501st. "The escort is called a Look See visit."

The escort started at a location far from Donje Nerodimlje, where six Serbs met with about 20 Greek soldiers —members of a five-ve-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

1st Lt. Georgios Ragos of the 501st Mech Bn. addresses the Albanian citizens during a 'Look See' visit in the village of Donje Nerodimlje.

hicle convoy that escorted the Serbs to their old homes.

"KFOR conducts these visits for the possible resettlement of IDPs," said Ragos. "The Serbs will be able to visit their properties to see if they are still standing or totally demolished and can't be inhabited."

The convoy pulled into the tiny town on a quiet Sunday morning. The streets were near empty, not

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MNB(E) Commander's Message

Showing respect will lead to safe, secure Kosovo

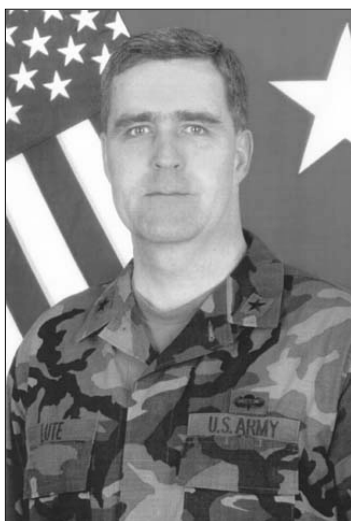
Our mission in Kosovo must be guided by one golden rule: treat all people with dignity and respect. On the face of it, this seems fairly simple and obvious. One of our Army's seven values is respect for others. Here in Kosovo, however, the importance of this rule is much deeper. It goes to the very source of our credibility and, by extension, our effectiveness as peacekeepers. Most important, it is simply the right thing to do.

The foundation of our success in Multi-National Brigade East is being impartial and even-handed toward all the citizens of Kosovo regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, or position. In a region torn by hatred and war between ethnic factions, we must see individuals – both good and bad – as individuals, not as representatives of an ethnic group. Ethnic groups do not commit to moving forward together in peace with respect for other groups, but individuals do. Ethnic groups do not commit crimes or threaten our mission, but individuals do. We must not fall into the trap of stereotyping ethnic groups as good or bad, but rather judge individuals by their actions and hold individuals ac-

countable for themselves.

We encounter situations every day in our sector where we must deal firmly with individuals who challenge the safe and secure environment. These situations range from minor crimes to potentially life-threatening crises. Many minor cases are simply referred to our partners in the UNMIK-Police and the Kosovo Police Service (KPS). In other cases, we will detain individuals for questioning. Our rules of engagement (ROE) govern how we handle more severe cases, including ultimately the use of deadly force. For every case we might encounter short of the use of deadly force, we must ensure the offenders are treated with dignity and respect. We must show the people of Kosovo what it means to operate in a society governed by rules and laws.

Don't underestimate the power of our serving as a good example. How we act towards all the people of Kosovo and towards one another is one of our best tools in this peacekeeping mission. We are watched very closely. Every time we walk off our base camps, the people of Kosovo watch to see if we live by our charter of treating everyone with dignity and



Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute

respect. In many cases, they will observe us with the expectation of seeing us favor one group of citizens over another. Our challenge is to overcome that expectation through day-to-day interaction over a long period of time. Discipline and patience are the keys. Discipline means maintaining our impartiality even under the most difficult and challenging circumstances; it means being firm and keeping our cool

when we are challenged. We also have to show patience as successive rotations of KFOR soldiers wear away at the ethnic divisiveness that has affected this region for so long.

Don't misread my message to you. We must deal with any troublemakers in a direct and professional manner. Even when citizens violate the rule of law or challenge our mission, however, we have no right to degrade or humiliate them. Treat all troublemakers the same – firmly, fairly, impartially, using the ROE as a guide.

Treating everyone with dignity and respect of course applies to our partners in the international community as well: UNMIK, OSCE, UNHCR, CIVPOL, non-governmental organizations, the Kosovo Police Service and others who join with KFOR to give Kosovo a fresh start. Overall success in this mission will be made through a concerted effort among all of these organizations. No single one, especially not KFOR, will do it on its own. Our long-term success lies in treating the people who work in these organizations as valued partners in this endeavor, as teammates. We simply cannot succeed without them.

Finally, our brigade is made of

contingents from seven nations, with each providing valuable, productive and meaningful contributions to our mission. We have differences in language and culture, but all personnel are valuable members of the team worthy of dignity and respect. Our diversity as a Brigade becomes our strength. We have a group of soldiers from all over the world, who are bonded by a common mission and a common determination to bring progress to Kosovo. We not only talk to the Kosovo people about the strength of ethnic diversity, we demonstrate it day-to-day with our fellow MNB-East soldiers. This is a very powerful message to the people of Kosovo.

In the end, our credibility with all the groups we deal with – the citizens of our sector, our international community partners, and our fellow soldiers – derives from our ability to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Take the high ground by showing basic human courtesy, by treating everyone the way you would like to be treated. Through your words and through your actions treat everyone you encounter the same, with the dignity and respect they deserve as a human being.

MNB(E) Command Sergeant Major's Message

Finding the heart in leadership requires passion

The smart guys have taken the Army a long way with respect to weapons systems that destroy things and hurt people.

The next advance in operating a more effective army



Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph R. Beam

will be done with people. People require leadership.

The Army has been overwhelmed with a blizzard of memos, manuals and pamphlets on leadership. But try as we may, we don't always get the point. What gets left out is the heart of leadership, which cannot be taught from a platform or read in a book.

While our leaders receive good training at our service schools on how to do things with their hands like laying Claymore Mines or replacing a part.

Telling a soldier where to go and what to do, and having them respect you for it — that is something you don't learn in any school. You learn by watching someone else with a knack for it and try to copy it.

The one important thing our schools don't teach is the heart

in leadership. Caring for soldiers is an aspect of leadership that comes from the heart.

We all are told to record birthdays but not the reason why. Good leaders know the value of saying "Happy Birthday" and arranging for a steak dinner.

We are taught to care for soldiers but nobody talked in detail about wives and kids.

Our schools don't mention getting your most troublesome soldier out of jail at 0200 for no other reason then we are responsible for them. 24 hours a day and seven days a week. In addition, soldiers are not trained to handle a death in the family of another soldier.

What we are taught is teamwork, values, morale and Esprit-de-corps. We have the right words but unless we be-

lieve it, we have the rhyme wrong.

The heart of leadership is in doing the right thing even when it is not the most popular thing. Teaching your soldiers the right thing, then holding them accountable for their actions.

Enforcing standards that instill the discipline that may save their life and yours too. Never walking past a soldier needing to be corrected.

The heart of leadership is never allowing one of your soldiers to come up short at any task done because you failed to educate and show them how it is done. This includes the officers in your unit.

The heart in leadership is wrapping your arms around our young leaders to help them understand that being a leader is more than just the rank they wear.

The heart of leadership is helping our leaders understand why we care for our soldiers in everything they do.

General William J. Livsey said it best: "You've got to love your soldiers...some you have to love them more."

So instead of pointing a finger, hold out your hand. Be involved, for these are our soldiers and this is our Army. That is the heart of leadership. You were watched as you grew up so you would do the right thing. It's now your turn to do the same. You have but to step up to the task.

Caring for your soldiers was never meant to be easy and the same can be said about being a leader. It is something you have to experience to know how to do it.

About Guardian East

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MNB (E) and Task Force Falcon

Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Mark Ballesteros

302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Commander
Maj. Gordon Cooper

KFOR Main Liaison Officer
Maj. Shawn Jirik

Executive Officer
Capt. Dave Domingo

Camp Monteith Public Affairs Officer
1st Lt. David Williams

Detachment Sergeant
Master Sgt. Mark VanLeer



Guardian East Editor
Pfc. Kate McIsaac

Print journalists
Spc. Jasmine Chopra
Spc. Rebecca Grzyb
Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Broadcast Journalists
Spc. Paul Dayes
Spc. Sandra Mercado

Webmaster/Broadcast Journalist

Pfc. Lisa Forbes

Senior Print Journalist
Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Senior Broadcast Journalist
Sgt. Keren Olson

Camp Monteith Public Affairs NCO
Sgt. James Blaine

Media Operations NCO
Sgt. Lovedy Zie

Administrative Specialist
Pfc. Brandon Guevara

battle ‘rattle’

What do you write home about?



Sgt. Stephan Schnek
Multiple launch rocket system automated tactical data systems specialist
Co. C, 1-33rd Field Artillery
Camp Able Sentry

The weather

Sgt. Nathaniel York
Signal support systems specialist
HHC, 1-26th Inf. Bn.
Camp Monteith



I send packages to my son telling him I will be home soon



Spc. Sherri McIntyre
Medic
Task Force Medical Falcon
Camp Able Sentry

Missing my husband and 6 year-old son

Capt. Pavel Brzek
Company commander
Company Haek (POLUKRBAT)
Camp White Eagle



How much I miss my neices



Capt. Huber Glica
Civilian and Military Cooperation
POLUKRBAT
Camp White Eagle

About how I’m missing my family

Sgt. Jonathan Brooks
Paratrooper mortarman
HHC 1-508th Inf. Bn.
Camp Bondsteel



Family

From the newsroom

Complaint-handlers are standing by

By Capt. Dave Domingo
Staff writer

A few days ago, I called the inspector general, Maj. Kelly Dickinson, and asked if he knew of any hot issues worth writing a commentary about.

I figured the person whose work includes investigating complaints from soldiers in Multi-National Brigade (East) could help identify a good, timely, meaty topic for a message to soldiers.

Dickinson paused, then said, almost apologetically, that there haven’t been any major complaints – people are basically happy.

He did say that soldiers and leaders have identified certain areas where policies need to be clarified or improvements should be made, but that the command is doing what it needs to do to resolve those issues.

The next day, the brigade equal opportunity adviser, Sgt. 1st Class Dale Veneklasen, came by our detachment for coordination on a story. I asked him what people have been complaining about.

He said not much.

Veneklasen’s duties include going to all the camps and remote sites in MNB(E), trying to get people to complain about unfair practices, and he had nothing significant to report.

Again, there are minor problems here, just as there are in garrison, but Veneklasen said they are being dealt with appropriately.

After talking to Veneklasen, I sent this e-mail message to Maj. Randy Mosteller, the brigade chaplain: “The EO rep and the IG say everyone is basically happy — they’re not getting any major complaints. What are your observations on MNB(E) morale?”

He wrote back: “I concur. Morale is good and holding steady. Good command climate, quality religious support, etc., make a difference.”

There are a few reasons business might be slow for the brigade’s complaint-handlers. Things might really be as good as they seem. The chain of command – every soldier’s first resort for resolving problems – might be handling things well enough that the EO rep, the IG and the chaplain don’t have to get involved.

But there is always the chance that soldiers need those specialized services and just aren’t taking advantage of them.

Just to make sure, we want to tell you exactly what each person’s job is and how to get in touch with them if you need to.

As equal opportunity adviser, Veneklasen helps ensure fair treatment for everyone in the command “based solely on merit, fitness, and capability in support of readiness.” In short, he handles complaints about discrimination and sexual harassment. His office is in Building 1340D, Room 4N, in Admin Alley on Camp Bondsteel. His phone number is DSN 781-5002. His e-mail address is Dale.Veneklasen@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil .

Dickinson said inspector generals help soldiers resolve issues that their units are unwilling or unable to resolve, and assist when there are violations of regulations. He said his office has helped fix a number of issues that soldiers “brought with them” from Germany.

Dickinson added that in some cases, regulations do not support what the soldier wants, and that in almost every case the IG has to work with the soldier’s chain of command to fix issues.

He also said handling complaints is not really the focus of his job. In Dickinson’s words: “Every day the IG provides advice, works issues for soldiers and gathers information that is used to better advise the commander, MNB(E).”

Dickinson’s office is in Building 1340A, Room 3N, in Admin Alley on Camp Bondsteel. His phone number is DSN 781-5044; his fax number is DSN 781-5048.

His e-mail address is kelly.dickinson@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil .

Mosteller said that chaplains provide for the free exercise of religion, offer religious services and conduct confidential pastoral counseling. In the course of that counseling, they sometimes hear complaints – generally, rather than getting involved in a command issue, the chaplain will provide spiritual guidance to help the soldier work through the problem.

Things may really be as good as they seem – but if you have a problem that might require help beyond your chain of command, that’s what the IG, the EO adviser and the chaplains are there for. Call on them. They are standing by.

Do you have a story or photo idea for *Guardian East*? If so, please give us a call at DSN 781-5200

Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Henry Gross

Age: 30

Rank: Sgt.

MOS: Personnel service sergeant

Unit: HHC, 1-26th Inf. Reg.

Stationed at: Camp Monteith

Your role in MNB(E): Provide service and support to Task Force 1-26 Infantry.

What city do you call home? Evergreen, Alabama

What are you good at? Diving, mechanics, anything dealing with personnel actions, football, Playstation2 and Xbox.

What do you like to do when you are off duty? Work out, play video games, go to the movies.

Your favorite food: Pork chops

Your favorite TV show: "The Steve Harvey Show"

Why did you join the Army? I didn't want to go to college.



News to use

Around KFOR

Multi-National Brigade (East)

July 22: Soldiers of Task Force 1-18 Infantry found a weapons cache near Mogila that included an AK-47 rifle, a German machine gun and a rocket-propelled grenade. Soldiers of the 737th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company destroyed the items on site about two hours later.

July 27: Soldiers of Task Force 1-18 Infantry and Task Force 709th Military Police, working with the All Arms Search Team, a United Kingdom unit based at the National Search Center in Great Britain, found an AK-47 rifle, a 32 mm pistol, a mortar round, a military radio and small arms ammunition during search operations in Sasare. The search also resulted in one arrest by the Kosovo Police Service.

July 28: The 13th Tactical Group reported to KFOR that a weapon and some ammunition had been found in the basement of an abandoned building in Kamenica. A KFOR patrol and an EOD team were dispatched to the scene and a rifle, five ammunition magazines, 201 rounds of ammunition, a grenade launcher adapter and some items of military equipment were confiscated. The items were turned over to the police investigative unit.

July 28: Soldiers of the Multinational Service Unit conducted a search operation in Zegra. In an abandoned house, two hand grenades were found and seized. An EOD team removed the items.

July 29: KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) reduced the requirements for the wear of protective gear during routine missions outside base camps.

July 31: Two soldiers were injured in a series of explosions in Klokot village. Both soldiers of Task Force 1-18 Infantry are in stable condition.

Aug. 1: Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, commanding general U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army awarded Purple Hearts to the two soldiers injured in the Klokot explosions.

Multi-National Brigade (North)

July 25: A house search operation was conducted by KFOR soldiers in Mitrovica. During the search, which included houses, sheds and a derelict building, the following items were found: a handgun, two pistol magazines and 17 rounds of ammunition. All items were confiscated. Throughout the operation the local population remained calm and helpful.

July 24: KFOR troops conducted a search operation near Gozivode, where they found 17 rifles, 4 pistols, 25 grenades, 3000 rounds of ammunition and a variety of miscellaneous military equipment. All items were confiscated.

July 24: KFOR firefighters from Mitrovica responded quickly to extinguish a fire in a field near Gojbuje. A similar incident occurred in the same field the day before and once again the KFOR firefighters were deployed and successfully extinguished the fire.

Multi-National Brigade (Center)

July 30: A passenger in a car outside a KFOR camp near Pristina was observed photographing the installation yesterday morning. As the gate guard approached the vehicle to check it, the car drove off but a KFOR patrol was able to intercept and stop the vehicle soon after. The passenger claimed that he was a professor taking pictures of war damaged sites. During a search of the vehicle a disposable camera was found. The car and both its occupants were escorted to the UNMIK-Police station for further investigation.

July 28: A KFOR patrol found a rifle and a bag containing ammunition near a building in Kosovo Polje. UNMIK-Police were tasked and later found a hand grenade in the same location. An EOD team removed the grenade.

July 28: A man informed KFOR that he had found a hand grenade in a ditch near Sedlare. A patrol was dispatched to the scene and cordoned the area before an EOD team arrived to destroy the item locally.



Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Spc. Brent Riley of 709th Military Police writes down the number and size of rounds unearthed near a cornfield outside Mogila before taking them to Camp Bondsteel. Also found were a German-made MG-42, a Russian Kalishnikov rifle and a rifle grenade.

Multi-National Brigade (West)

July 26: Approximately 130 people gathered peacefully in Dakovica to demonstrate against the arrest of former KLA members. The demonstration ended peacefully after an hour. A similar demonstration took place in Decan. Those demonstrating numbered approximately 150 people. The demonstration ended without incident.

July 25: UNMIK-Police informed KFOR that they found a hand grenade without its safety pin, which had been found by a child. An EOD team was dispatched to the scene and the item was destroyed.

Multi-National Brigade (South)

July 23: KFOR conducted cordon and search operation, "Roaring Lion," in the village of Oterusa from the early evening of July 23 to July 24. Temporary checkpoints were set up to control the access to the village. During the search operation 272 vehicles were controlled and a number of houses searched. At the conclusion of the operation a pistol, 9 rounds of ammunition and 2 hand grenades had been found. All items were confiscated. These items include, 2 rifles, a pistol, 2 hand grenades, 156 rounds of ammunition, 6 ammunition magazines and a bayonet. As before all items were confiscated.

Q: I plan on getting out of the Army after this deployment. What can the Army do for me in Kosovo to help me prepare for civilian work?

First Lt. Matthew Gillespie, deputy personnel officer for Multi-National Brigade (East), responds:

A: So, you're stuck in Kosovo, planning on separating from the service, and didn't get the word that you had to attend Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) counseling before deploying...

Cheer up, you can still prepare yourself for the transition to civilian employment or schooling!

Although, the Army offers no full-time ACAP counseling or transition center in Kosovo or FYROM, there are great opportunities through the Internet. Check out the Army Career and

Alumni Program online at www.acap.army.mil.

The site offers step-by-step counseling on a variety of areas including relocation assistance, job assistance, veterans affairs, and more. Get into the FAQs for information on teaching, law enforcement and other opportunities. The site also contains links to Internet employment sites, employer sites, federal employment opportunities, and job fairs.

After checking out ACAP — you're ready for COOL — Credentialing Opportunities On-Line. COOL provides information on transforming military training and experience into civilian credentials and licenses. From background information on civilian licensure to MOS assessments, COOL is your guide to civilian licenses and certification needed for many lucrative positions. COOL will

R F I

Request for Information

You ask it. We get it answered.



also help you fill in skills gaps and provide resources to help you gain civilian credentials. Check out COOL at www.armyeducation.army.mil/cool.

The Education Center is another great stop for preparing yourself for the transition to civilian employment or advanced schooling. The Education Center can provide you information on colleges throughout the world, prepare you for advanced schooling entrance examinations, and counsel you on education opportunities. The Education Center can also enroll you in college courses while in Kosovo. Both traditional classroom and distance learning programs are offered, so they can work with your schedule.

Through the Internet and Education Center, Kosovo is a great place to work on skills and training that your potential employers are seeking!

Soldiers show spirit of humanitarianism

By Spc. Jasmine Chopra
Staff writer

Soldiers are warriors, but they are humanitarians, too.

Some members of Multi-National Brigade (East) continue serving the people of Kosovo even after their military missions are complete — through special outreach projects driven by units and individuals.

"I've seen poverty, but I've never seen anything like this," said Sgt. Lauriel Byers, referring to the village of Brod, where he participates in outreach work with others in his unit.

Byers is the operations non-commissioned officer in charge for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 709th Military Police Battalion. He delivers clothes, shoes and toys to locals with Pfc. Timothy Chaire, a petroleum supply specialist also in HHD, and detachment commander Capt. Brad Martin.

"I've been to this village a dozen times," Martin said, "and I'll keep bringing boxes because it truly makes a difference."

He's delivered 3,000 pounds of donated items, with an expected 5,000 more due before the end of KFOR rotation 4A. The donations come from soldiers' families in Germany and the United States.

At Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, another community outreach program is linking local children to an American boy "with an amazing sense of compassion," said Chief Warrant Officer Jerry Hunter, battalion maintenance technician for HHC 9th Engineer Bn. Hunter's 8-year-old nephew,



Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Above: Capt. Brad Martin, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 709th Military Police Battalion delivers toys, clothes and shoes to families in the village of Brod. Center: Children from a local school took a field trip to Camp Bondsteel courtesy of the ASG (P) July 17. Here Sgt. 1st Class Idelle Bailey, an NCOIC with Area Support Group directorate of security operations and plans, helps students with computer assignments at the education center.

Kyle Swip, is so concerned about the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo that he has organized — with the help of his parents — clothes and school supply drives to benefit children in Kosovo.

"I'm amazed by his desire to help in any way he can," Hunter said.

Soldiers are reaching out to schools, as well.

"Having the chance to go off base and be involved in the community is an excellent experience," said 1st Lt. Lynn Streich, assistant operations officer for 299th Logistics Task Force.

Soldiers of the 299th LTF volunteered at an elementary school.

"The kids at Rajko Urosevic Gotovusa Elementary (like most schools in Kosovo) do not have the everyday things that American schoolchildren take for granted, such as proper lighting in classrooms, decent chalk boards, teaching diagrams and high-quality books," Streich said.

The 299th teamed up with the H. B. Zachry Middle School in San Antonio, Texas, to acquire equipment for Rajko Urosevic Gotovusa El-

ementary School.

At Camp Magrath, the Area Support Team gathers shoes, toys and school supplies for the children at the Binac School.

At Camp Bondsteel, the Area Support Group gave teenage students at the Konstantin Kristoforidhi School "the best field trip in the world," said Hatixhe Aliu, a 14 year-old student at the school.

Nearly 10 weeks of planning, permission slips and teamwork by the Directorate of Information Management, ASG and other organizations led to the students visiting Camp Bondsteel July 17. After attending a fun computer class at the education center, students played billiards and foosball with

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Get to know MNB(E) units

1-26th Infantry Regiment

At the beginning of the 20th Century, the United States Army was sorely pressed to meet its overseas commitments in Cuba, the Philippines and Puerto Rico. As a result, in 1901 Congress authorized five additional Regular Army Infantry regiments; the 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th Infantry. All five regiments subsequently served the Army well.

But among these tried and true infantry units, the 26th Infantry's record stands apart. The 26th Infantry began its life overseas in the Philippines and spent its first 20 years of service on deployments to the Southwest Pacific, the Mexican and Indian frontier

and in Europe. They earned their first battle streamer during the Philippine Insurrection within two years of the unit's formation.

After returning to the same location for another tour of duty (a habit the Blue Spaders would keep for the entire century), the regiment fought off Mexican bandits and settled disputes in the Indian Territory until it was selected as one of only four Regular Army Infantry Regiments deemed fit for immediate combat to form the first American Expeditionary Division in June of 1917. This expeditionary division



would later be renamed the First Division and thus began its long association with the Big Red One. As part of the first American soldiers to arrive in France, the regiment immediately left for the front. Along with its sister regiments of the division, it earned more campaign streamers than any other regiments during the First World War...but at a terrible cost. More than 900 Blue Spaders lost their lives in a six-month period. At Soisson the regimental commander, executive officer, two of three battalion commanders and regimental ser-

geant major were killed in action; 62 officers were killed or wounded; and out of the 3,100 Blue Spaders who started the attack, more than 1,500 were killed or wounded. But the battle was won and this turned the tide for the Allies at a crucial period during the summer of 1918. By war's end, 26th soldiers earned with their sweat and blood the seven battle streamers and two foreign awards for their colors.

Following a brief occupation duty in Germany, the regiment returned to the United States and served as a part of a smaller peacetime Army until 1941. In that year, the regiment once again stood with its sister regiments and prepared for war in Europe. In World War II, the

See 1-26th page 14

Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Roberto Martinez

Age: 25

Rank: Sgt.

MOS: Airborne medic

Unit:
HHC, 1-508 Inf. Bn.

Stationed at:
Camp Bondsteel

Your duty position:
Team leader

Your role in MNB (E):
To participate in the Rapid Guardian exercise.

What city do you call home? Houston, Texas

What are you good at?
I play semi-professional soccer in an Italian league.

What do you like to do when you are off duty?
Travel

Favorite Food:
Beef fajitas

Your favorite TV show:
"The Simpsons"

The last book you read:
"Black Hawk Down"

Why did you join the Army? I was bored staying at home.



Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Fernel Hendy

Age: 21

Rank: Spc.

MOS: Health care specialist

Unit: Task Force Medical Falcon

Stationed at: Camp Able Sentry

Your duty position: health care specialist and ambulance driver

Your role in MNB(E): Ambassador for the U.S. Army

What state do you call home? Georgetown, Guyana

What are you good at? Field exercises, football.

What do you like to do when you are off duty? Sleep

Favorite Food: Curry chicken.

Your favorite TV show: "The Sopranos"

Why did you join the Army? To get away from my ex-fiance



Much to do about water

It's bottled water out, tap water in — at major U.S. MNB(E) dining facilities

By Spc. Jasmine Chopra
Staff Writer

Clean water is one of those things that humans can't live without. When the body doesn't have enough water, thinking becomes confused, muscles lose endurance and the heart works harder. "Drink water" is all soldiers seem to hear.

So why has bottled water been removed from the dining facilities at major U.S. base camps in Multi-National Brigade East?

The tap water is safe, according to medical experts. "I know Brown & Root does a better job of purifying the water through their purification system here at Bondsteel than the bottled water company does at their plant," said Capt. Kenneth Koyle, officer in charge of medical plans at Task Force Medical Falcon.

Sgt. 1st Class Eric P. Holland, noncommissioned officer in charge of preventive medicine at TFMF agrees. "There is no reason to fear the tap water," he said. "Bottled water often just has salts and minerals that are added to give it taste. That doesn't make it safer. I'd rather drink tap."

Holland and his staff conduct laboratory tests and analysis to ensure the water is safe for consumption. They look for contaminants and bacteria such as coliform, which originates in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and can be found in their wastes. Water samples from major camps are tested weekly.

The decision to reduce dependence on bottled water was reached based on public law, according to Chief Warrant Officer John J. Shepard, with the United States Army Europe Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of Logistics.

"The use of appropriated funds to purchase bottled water is not authorized when the public water supply is safe. The water on base camps has been determined by appropriate medical authorities to be safe for human consumption," Shepard said.

At Camp Bondsteel, the water supply comes from three wells, each at 200 meters deep. "The water from the well is potable, but is treated to make it even safer," said Capt. Mark Carder, officer in charge of Preventive Medicine at TFMF.

The water is treated at sophisticated purification plants operated by Brown & Root Services.

At Camp Bondsteel, and Monteith the water goes through a multi-level sand filter and an activated carbon filter and softener process; before chlorine is added. Though the water at Camp Able Sentry comes



Photos by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Left: The water treatment plant at Camp Bondsteel processes more than 400,000 gallons of water per day. Sgt. 1st Class Eric P. Holland, non-commissioned officer in charge of TFMF's Preventive Medicine, prepares to take a sample of Camp Bondsteel's water. Water samples undergo a lab process that checks for the safety and quality of the water supply.

from Skopje City Water, it is treated with micron filtration and chlorine by Brown & Root Services to ensure it's safe for soldiers to drink.

"The water treated by Brown & Root is consistently monitored and tested for safety, and it meets U.S. standards for safe drinking water," said David M. Capouya, Brown & Root Services regional manager for Kosovo, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

At Camp Bondsteel alone, Brown & Root services supplies 420,000 gallons of water per day, 100,000 of which are transported by truck to smaller patrol camps.

Fountains dispensing tap water have replaced bottled water at all major U.S. dining facilities in MNB(E).

"Bottled water is still available at chow halls of small base camps and remote sites, as the water supplies at those locations have not been ruled safe for human consumption," Shepard said.

"The cost of bottled water is about \$25,000 per month, so the decreased reliance on it will result in savings to the government, though exact amounts cannot be accurately determined," Shepard said. With over 110,000 cases of water delivered for the month of June alone, the savings from using tap water should be significant.

Bottled water is still available for living and work areas on the main base camps and at remote sites.

Delivery

Soldiers from the MNB(E)'s Polish - Ukrainian Battalion receive and unload more than 34 tons of donated medicines at White Eagle Camp in late June. Following a reconnaissance mission of nearby hospitals and medical points, the soldiers worked with Polish Caritas, a non-governmental organization, to coordinate the donation and delivery. The majority of the aid was sent to Health Houses in Urosevac and Kacanik and to the Ambulanta in Drakovce.

—Capt. Hubert Glica
POLUKRBAT



Photos by Warrant Officer Marek Osuch
POLUKRBAT



TMK invites youths to meet members

By Spc. Patrick Rodriguez
Staff writer

CAMP MONTEITH – A small step was taken in repairing relations between the people of Kosovo as Serb teen-agers came to meet and greet the Kosovo Protection Corps, known by the Albanian-language abbreviation TMK.

The 364th TMK Detachment, commanded by Refik Shala, invited teens from the town of Kusce to their classroom training facilities outside Gnjilane. At the facilities, the youths saw where the TMK works and attended a TMK lecture on preventive medicine and sanitation procedures. The visit was intended to show the teen-agers that TMK members are ordinary people.

During the visit, the Serb youths sat in a large dining hall and listened to Rexhë Xhakli, an American with both Albanian and Serb roots in Kosovo. Xhakli spoke to the youths about working together for the future of Kosovo. He challenged them to participate from within the system and better their future by contributing to the community.

"I'll be very honest – before, I really thought they were bad



Photos by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Above: Rexhe Xhakli, an American who has both Serb and Albanian roots in Kosovo, talks with Capt. Don A. Rickel, TMK liaison for Task Force 1-26 Infantry, during a recent visit by local Serb teen-agers to the TMK facilities. Below: Refik Shala, commander for the 364th TMK Detachment, talks with Goran Djordjevic, a Serbian teenager, about what the TMK is doing for all Kosovars during a recent visit by Serbian youth to the TMK facilities.

people, really bad people, the TMK," said Aleksandra Arsic, a 17-year-old medical student. "I really can't describe it. But now I see they are the same people just like us."

What made this initial visit possible was coordination among Shala and Shaban Terzin, the executive director of the board for Lansdowne (a non-governmental organization), and Capt. Don Rickel, the TMK liaison for 1-26 Infantry at Camp Monteith.

Reflecting on the transforma-



tion of the TMK, Shala said, "We should give minorities a chance to integrate

into the TMK. This is a good thing." Still, he admitted he didn't have the contacts needed to make this visit happen and relied on Terzin and Rickel.

As for the change in the youths' perception: "Before we came here and met them we thought that the TMK was just on the Albanian's side," said 17-year-old Nenad Vllaskovic. "Now, after we met them, we

know that the TMK is on the side of Kosovars, all the people that live in Kosovo. Now we see that the TMK is helping everybody."

Shala said the TMK has made serious inroads into the Serb and Roma communities, largely because of its community service efforts.

Shala said the TMK's first project in 2000 was building a fence around a mixed Serb-Albanian school in Kamenica. That was just the beginning of a long list that Shala rattled off that included renovating a kindergarten in Kamenica; participating in a Kosovo-wide clean-up day in mixed Serb-Albanian areas like Pones, Novo Brdo and Bostane; painting benches, fences and swings in Gnjilane's

See TMK, page 11

Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Cory McCarthy

Age: 20

Rank: Pfc.

MOS: Airborne medic

Unit:
173rd Airborne Brigade

Stationed at: Camp
Bondsteel

Your duty position:
Team leader

Your role in MNB(E):
To participate in the
Rapid Guardian exercise.

What city do you call
home?
Santa Cruz, Calif.

What are you good
at? Playing the saxo-
phone

What do you like to
do when you are off
duty? Play music and
go to concerts.

Your favorite TV
show: "Scooby-Doo"

Last book you read:
"Paradise Lost"

Why did you join the
Army? For medical
training.



PRIDE: Soldiers have mixed feelings about leaving camp

Continued from page 1

moved from Camp Pride, even the gravel on top of the hill. Only the house and the shared camaraderie among those stationed at Camp Pride will remain, said 1st Sgt. Malcolm D. Parrish of C Co., TF 1-77 Armor.

Many of the soldiers who rotated into Camp Pride are leaving with mixed feelings. "I really would like to stay out here a little longer," Jason M. Moore, a senior line medic from TF 1-77 Armor said, "I believe things are getting better out here and we can finally move on. Hopefully, we never have to come back. It's a beautiful place though."

Other soldiers were definitely ready to leave. Pvt. Darrell Elliott, tanker for TF 1-77 Armor, said: "This is my third or fourth rotation out here, and every

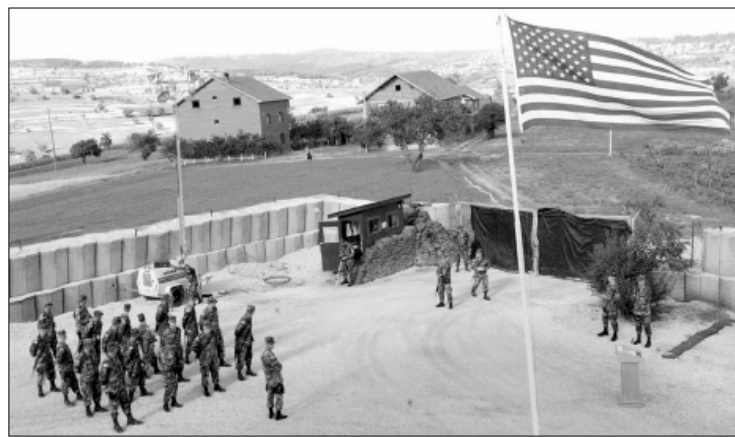


Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Camp Pride soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment prepare for their last formation, which included the lowering of the colors.

time I'm out here it goes by slower and slower."

Soldiers rotated in and out for weeks at a time while others were permanently stationed there.

Spc. Sang V. Nguyen, network systems support operator for TF 1-77 Armor said, "I don't think it needs to be out here anymore. We've done everything we've come out here to

do."

Although, soldiers had different reasons for not wanting to go back to one of the larger base camps most believed that their mission at Camp Pride was complete.

"We got the Albanians and Serbs working together out here," Moore said. "Yes, I think we have accomplished our mission."

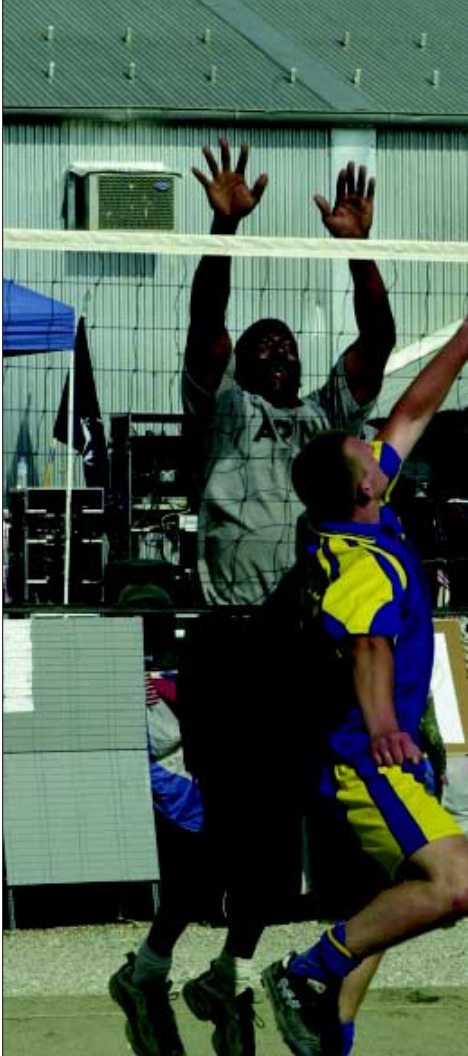
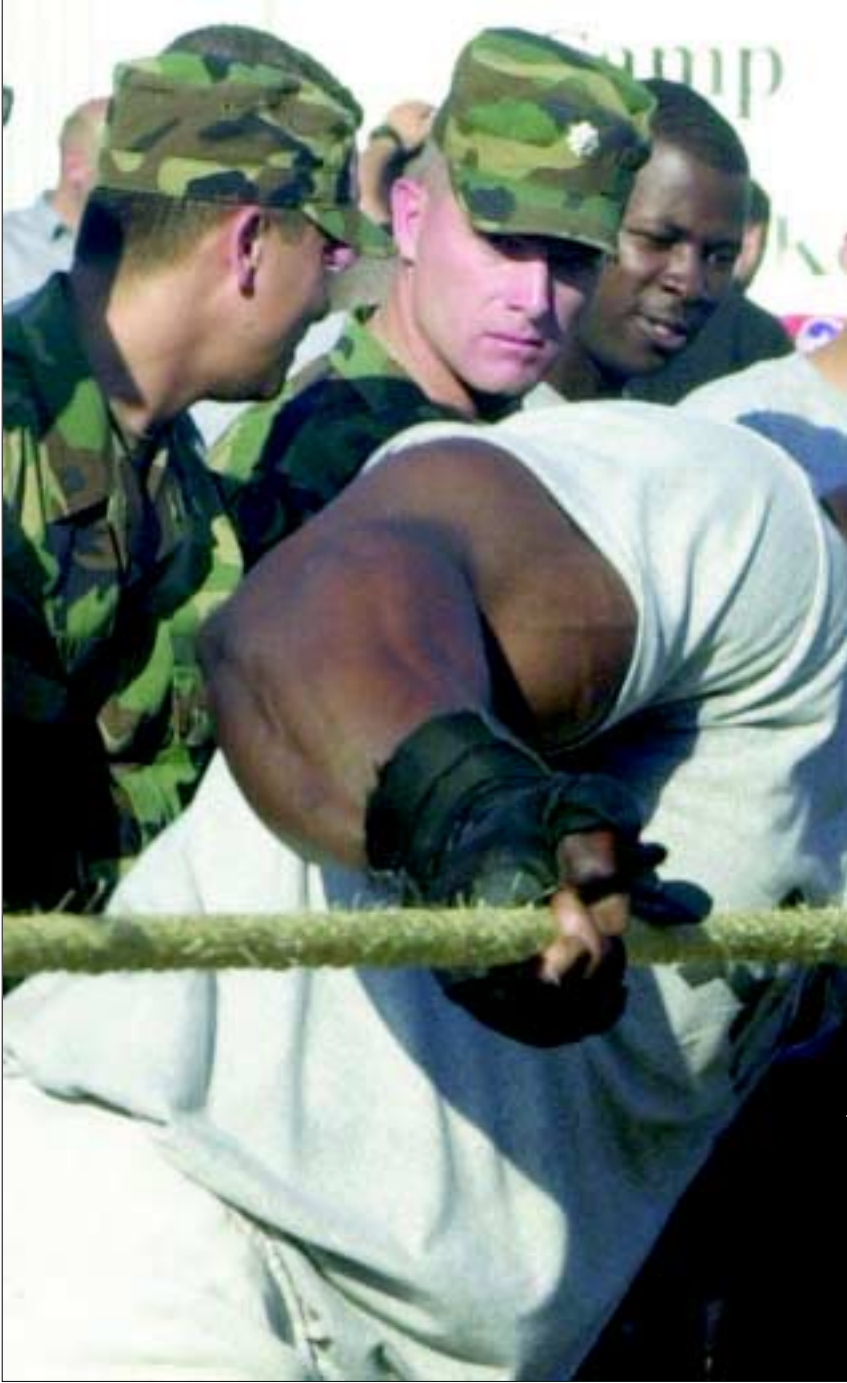
Some soldiers said they liked the seclusion of Camp Pride; others said they liked having the satisfaction of being a valuable member of a small outpost.

"For a medic at Camp Monteith, you're one medic out of 50 medics from all different battalions. Out here you're the 'doc.' You're the man they come to for every little need, and it actually makes you feel useful and necessary," Moore said.

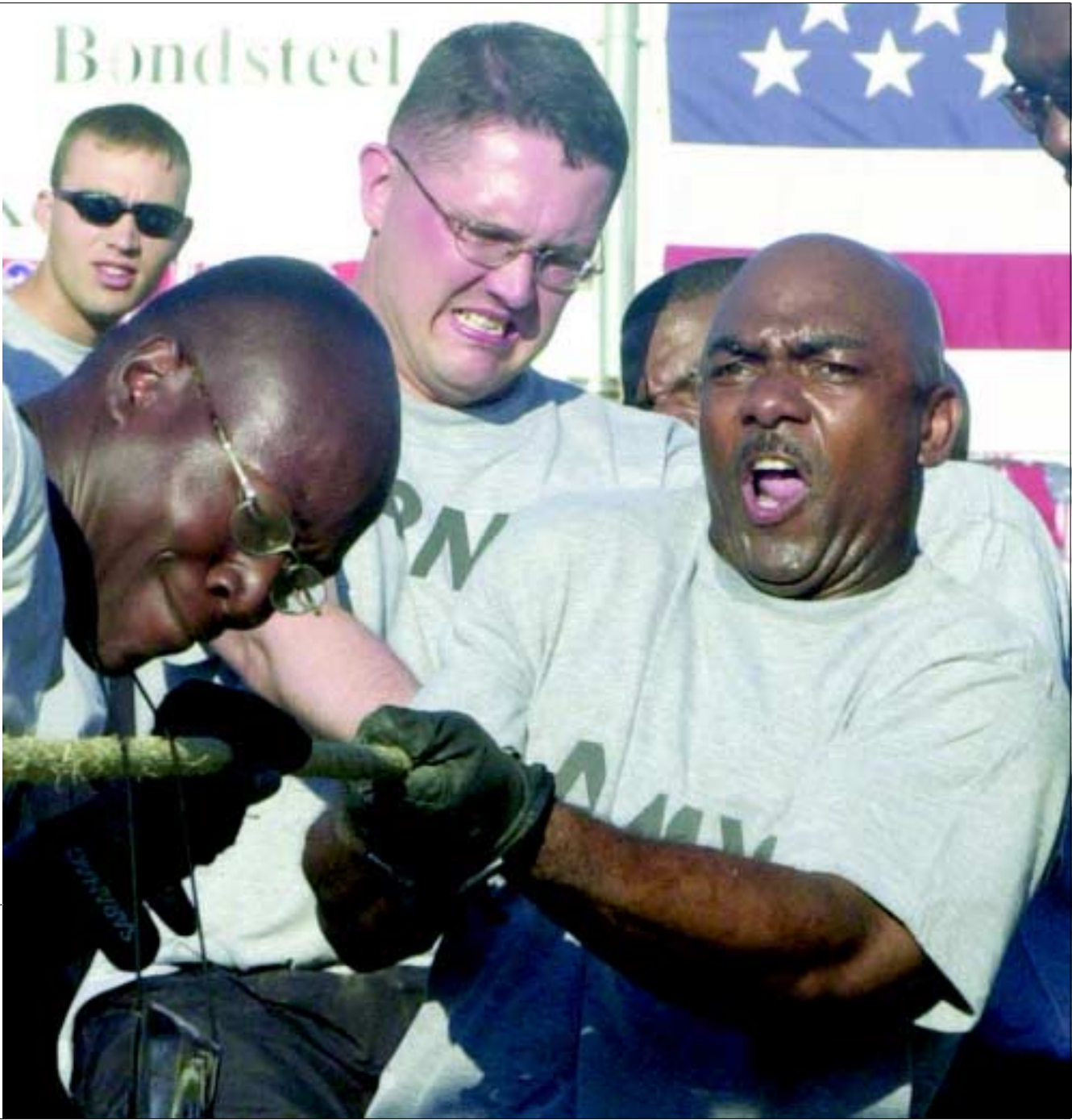
Spc. David Vestal, a driver for TF 1-77 Armor, said, "It's quiet. It's our own little company area. Nobody messes with us."

One soldier had an entirely different reason for wanting to stay. "You don't spend a lot of money," said Spc. Mirza Jakirlic said, a radio operator for TF 1-77 Armor.

Sports Day at Car



camp Bondsteel



Soldiers from throughout Multi-National Brigade (East) participated in an action packed Sports Day at Camp Bondsteel July 21. Soldiers competed in a 5-kilometer rucksack march, a 5-mile relay race, a stretcher race, push-ups, sit-ups, and pull-ups, Humvee pull, tug-of-war and volleyball. The winning trophy went to Task Force 1-26 Infantry from Camp Monteith with a total of 42 points. The second place winner, with 33 points, was the team from the POLUKRBAT camp, and third place went to Task Force 1-7 Field Artillery with 32 points.

Photos:
Clockwise from left:
Stretcher race — Back left to right: Sgt. Bartholome Bellamy and Spc. Jared White, front left to right, Spc. Jason Rodgers and Spc. Benjamin Day, with Pvt. Sonny Sampler riding shotgun on the stretcher, all from Task Force 1-26 Infantry, charge for the finish line in the last heat of the stretcher race. Team 1-26 took first place in this event.
Tug-of-war — Front: Staff Sgt. Jeffery Joseph of Headquarters Headquarters Battalion, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, right, Sgt. Matthew Smith, of Service Battery 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, and Cpt. Chad Bates battery commander for HHB 1-7 FA, dig-in during the competition.
Relay race — Soldiers, representing more than 10 teams, charged ahead in the first lap of the five-mile relay race. TF 1-7 were the overall winners.
Volleyball — Staff Sgt. Craig Williamson, Service Battery 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, goes up for the block against the POLUKRBAT team.
Push-ups — Maj. Victor Kopachynsky company commander of Task Force Tiger of the POLUKRBAT camp fits in two more push ups before his time runs out.

Photos by
Pfc. Kate McIsaac



Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Eric P. Holland

Age: 35

Rank: Sgt. 1st Class

MOS: Preventive medicine specialist

Stationed at: Camp Bondsteel

Your duty position: Noncommissioned officer in charge of preventive medicine

Your role in MNB(E): To provide force health protection and surveillance and monitoring

What city do you call home? Panama City, Fla.

What are you good at? Training soldiers

What do you like to do when you are off duty? Church-related activities

Your Favorite Food: Fried chicken

Your favorite TV show: "7th Heaven"

The last book you read: "Pilgrim's Progress"

Why did you join the Army? To gain medical knowledge and experience.



LOOK: Mission brings mixed emotions

Continued from page 1

many people were out of their homes with just a few kids playing outside. The Greek soldiers exited the vehicles and posted guards at both ends of the street.

At the first site, a diminutive Serb man and his elderly wife returned for the first time in three years to what is left of their home. They discovered the house was nothing more than a brick frame, nearly covered with three years worth of weeds and bushes. The small man took pictures of his home as his wife shook her head in disbelief.

The second stop was the home of Denic Slavisa, who lived in his home for 35 years before the war. Slavisa found his two-story home in equally poor condition, with shards of brick littering the floor of the windowless house.

"It's bad for me," said Slavisa. "It's not the same. My house was complete. It looked nothing like this."

Although the Serbs were not happy to see their homes in this condition, they were happy to have the opportunity to return to the village. "Thanks to the Greeks and KFOR I can visit my home again," said Slavisa.

"Before the war everything was OK. I had no problems

with the neighbors. They were good and friendly. "They would visit my home, and I would visit them."

The third stop brought smiles and tears to the faces of the Serb visitors, as they walked through the village cemetery. Slavisa was happy because he found the headstone of his brother's grave. The headstone was broken, but Slavisa was able to piece it back together. After 15 minutes when he finished, Slavisa smiled as he asked for a picture of himself in front of the gravesite.

By this time, the village started to come alive, as people came out of their homes to investigate the visitors. Adults now joined the children and the group of on-lookers swelled to approximately 40 people.

"It looks like we are going to have some interaction with the local Albanian citizens," Ragos said, as he went to greet the group.

Ragos, with the assistance of an Albanian translator explained to the group that he was escorting the Serbs back to their properties so they could see the condition of things. Georgios also tried to answer several questions posed by the Albanians.

"The locals came to express their resentment about the presence of the Serbs,"



Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Denic Slavisa, a Internally Displaced Person, returns to the Albanian village of Donje Nerodimlje to find his house in ruins.

Ragos said. "They claim that the Serbs committed crimes against the Albanians after the war."

Ragos tried to explain the job of the Greek soldiers and KFOR was to provide security for all the people of Kosovo.

"I explained that they do not need to fear anything," Ragos said, "because KFOR is here to provide security for everybody."

The Albanians continually asked questions and made comments about the Serb visitors. Ragos addressed their concerns, but when the crowd became louder and more agitated, he directed the soldiers to get back in their vehicles.

As the convoy moved through the town, the group of Albanians followed the escort team. Ragos exited his vehicle

and told the crowd that they could not follow the convoy. The crowd refused to disperse. Realizing that he could not continue to provide adequate security for the Serb visitors, Ragos ended his mission.

Ragos said that he did not consider his mission a failure.

"It is important to see the reaction of the local population to the Serbs," he said,

Adding that the visit to Donje Nerodimlje was not typical of all 'Looksee' visits.

"I have seen Albanians welcome the Serbs back to their homes," he said. "They hug and kiss and everything is OK."

Although there would be no hugs and kisses on this day, the Look See visit served as a reminder that the marathon, to provide a safe and secure environment, continues in Kosovo.

AAFES makes pizza delivery

*By Pfc. Kate McIsaac
Staff writer*

Soldiers working in the rain on a quiet afternoon July 27, at some of the Multi-National Brigade (East) outposts received an unlikely delivery – pizza.

Representatives from Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Anthony's Pizza and the equal opportunity office at Camp Bondsteel worked together to donate more than 50 pizzas to soldiers at three outlying posts.

Delivered via UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, the pizzas and gallons of soda were unloaded by soldiers who had less than 10 minutes' notice. Company commanders knew about the inbound treats, but to the soldiers on the ground, it was all a big surprise.

Clara Nowacki, general manager of AAFES in Kosovo headed up the coordination, along with Sgt. 1st Class Dale Veneklasen, EO adviser for MNB(E), and Anthony's Pizza to prepare this special delivery.

"It is something we can do when we know the soldiers can't come in from the field," Nowacki said. "It's nice to be able to do something for the soldiers."

The deliveries were made to soldiers in the Task Force 1-18 Infantry at three



Photo by Pfc. Kate McIsaac

Soldiers from Task Force 1-18 Infantry unload 16 pizzas from a UH-60 Black Hawk at Falcon Four live fire range.

separate camps. The first stop was at the Falcon 4 live fire range where engineer from the Company B, 54th Engineer Battalion part of TF 1-18 Infantry were conducting demolition training.

The next stop was a touch down at a camp outside Vrbovac and the last was a delivery in a field near a church in Mogila.

At each stop, the soldiers appeared surprised and pleased. Spc. Michael Hannon a scout with Company B, 1-18th Inf. Bn., helped

unload the pizzas at his camp near Vrbovac.

"This is great," he said. "We usually get little microwavable pizzas, but this is much better."

Although it was not the time AAFES delivered special treats to hard working soldiers, this was one of the most fun, Nowacki said.

"We go where the soldiers go. And we love to do it," she said.

Kosovo duty in uniform rewarded

By Sgt. Lovedy Ann Zie
Staff Writer

Approximately 170 American police officers from the United Nations Mission in Kosovo were recognized for their contributions in the development of a police service in the province on July 18.

The officers received medals from their command for their six months of service.

David Keefe, UNMIK U.S. Contingent commander, emphasized the importance of UN police work in Kosovo.

"You are goodwill ambassadors," he said. "You are a critical element in establishing peace in the trouble region. Mentoring and training the KPS (Kosovo Police Service) will be a historic achievement."

Stefan Feller, UNMIK police Commissioner, spoke on the importance of cooperation with the UNMIK police in the local communities and how the American contingent supplements UNMIK work.

"I take the opportunity, like this, to point out from where we have come

from, what are we now, and to where do we want to go?" he said.

The UNMIK American command originally planned to have the ceremony on July 4. Security concerns forced the ceremony to be postponed.

"It is a rare occasion to see so many American officers in one place," said Keefe as he thanked Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute and the United States Army for their hospitality.

Lute welcomed the police personnel. "The kind of commitment you see here today and the teamwork, by you coming on our post today, shows the effort we need to take to produce the good in Kosovo."

To thank the policemen for their hard work, Lute humbly offered use of Bondsteel facilities. He said "... I encourage all you in blue — in fact, it'd be an honor to find your way over to the Balkans largest PX, cappuccino bar, and dining facility."

For the policemen stationed in the remote posts of Kosovo, his invitation brought cheers and hooahs.



Photo by Kent Harris, Stars and Stripes

Multi-National Brigade (East) commander, Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute, speaks to the gathering at the medal ceremony honoring American police officers serving with the United Nations mission in Kosovo.

Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Thanhha Nguyen

Rank: Sgt.

MOS:
Finance specialist

Unit: Unit detachment
C, 106th Finance Battalion

Stationed at:
Camp Monteith

Your duty position:
Military pay noncommissioned officer in charge.

Your role in MNB(E):
Helping soldiers to solve pay problems and ensure all soldiers are getting paid for all their entitlements.

What city do you call home? Germantown, Md.

What do you like to do when you are off duty?
Play computer games.

Your favorite food:
Soups

Your favorite TV show: "Whose Line is it Anyway?"

The last book you read: "The Lost Boy"

Why did you join the Army? Adventure



Taking Aim

Sgt. Tracy Lamboy, a broadcast team NCOIC in the 304th Psychological Operations company, takes aim with a G-36 rifle at the German Schutzenshnur weapons qualification July 20.

Photo by
SpC. Paul Dayes

TMK: Working hard to promote multi-ethnic cooperation

Continued from page 1

city park; improving a sewage system in Glogovac; assisting in the renovation of a school in downtown Gnjilane; cleaning up scrap metal and burned-out vehicles beside roads; and building a youth center for a Romanian community in Gnjilane.

Rickel added, "Their organization (TMK) is promoting multi-ethnic participation because their mission now is for all Kosovars. They are here to help all people of Kosovo rebuild their lives."

Many TMK members are former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army. Shala said that since the TMK became a search-and-rescue force, it has not had one incident or act of violence toward any minorities.

After visiting the TMK facilities, the youths and some TMK members ventured to a local restaurant where they ate, drank and joked with each other. The male Serb youths asked the TMK members for their TMK caps and put them on and took pictures with one another. Some youths even mentioned that they would like to be members of the TMK one day.

"Today they (the Serb youths) are going to see



Photo by SpC. Patrick Rodriguez

Refik Shala, commander for the 364th TMK Detachment, talks with Goran Djordjevic, a Serbian teenager, about what the TMK is doing for all Kosovars during a recent visit by Serbian youth to the TMK facilities.

the reality - that TMK is TMK and nothing else," Shala said. "They can take that home and tell their parents, and probably that will impact on their parents, too. Maybe some of them will join TMK."

Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Allen Bingham

Age: 28

Rank: Sgt.

MOS: Interrogator

Unit: Co. C, 101st MI Bn.

Stationed at: Camp Monteith

Your duty position: Team leader

What city do you call home? Henderson, Nv.

What are you good at? Being a dad and keeping my soldiers in line.

What do you like to do when you are off duty? Read, work on my bachelor's degree and play "Spider-man" on Playstation.

Your favorite food: Anything my wife makes

Your favorite show: "Moesha"

Last book you read: "Harry Potter" (3rd)

Why did you join the Army? Because I like green.



Entertainment

Success at Karaoke doesn't require talent... just a little strategy

By Capt. Dave Domingo
Staff Writer

The most common excuse for not participating in karaoke: "I can't sing."

The most common excuse in Kosovo: "I can't drink."

It's time to put both those objections to rest.

On a recent Sunday night at Camp Bondsteel, soldiers and civilians of Multi-National Brigade (East) demonstrated four foolproof techniques for doing well at karaoke. None of the techniques hinges on anyone being drunk, and only one of them requires singing ability.

Technique 1: Ham it up.

Showmanship can make up for a total lack of talent. Dance between phrases. Make gestures with your hands. Crack jokes during the 12-bar instrumental break.

Sgt. Amonds Mack, 22, a mortuary affairs specialist in Company A, 299th Forward Support Battalion, sang "End of the Road" with Spc. Matthew Poehler, 19, a signal support systems specialist in Headquarters, Task Force Medical Falcon, and Pvt. Jamie Mathis, 20, a fueler in Headquarters, 2-1 Aviation Battalion. The trio stood close together and swayed, throwing their heads back as they belted out the chorus, their faces strained with conjured emotion. The audience applauded enthusiastically throughout the song.

Technique 2: Choose a song everyone loves.

What do "Boot Scootin'

Boogie," "Love Shack" and "Pretty Fly for a White Guy" have in common? They're songs an audience is very likely to enjoy no matter how they are sung.

Of course, it's a bonus if you sing it well. Sgt. Octavia Winston, 38, a medical supply sergeant in Task Force Medical Falcon, did a respectable performance of Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," but the crowd seemed just as enthusiastic about the song itself. Audience members mouthed the words and danced; two of them joined Winston onstage and did Army calisthenics to the beat.

Technique 3: Nail it!

If you really are an accomplished singer, karaoke is your chance to stand out. Practice your song. Customize your version with variations so you don't sound like you're trying to imitate the original artist.

Then when you get to the mike, pull out all the stops.

Sgt. Richard Pittman, 25, an automated logistics specialist in Company A, 121st Signal Battalion, didn't waste any energy on showmanship when

he sang the 'N Sync song "Gone." He stood perfectly still and stared at the monitor that displayed the lyrics.

Pittman clearly poured all his energy into vocals — his pitch, dynamics and inflection were solid. Spectators' applause indicated that they appreci-

ated hearing a skilled performance.

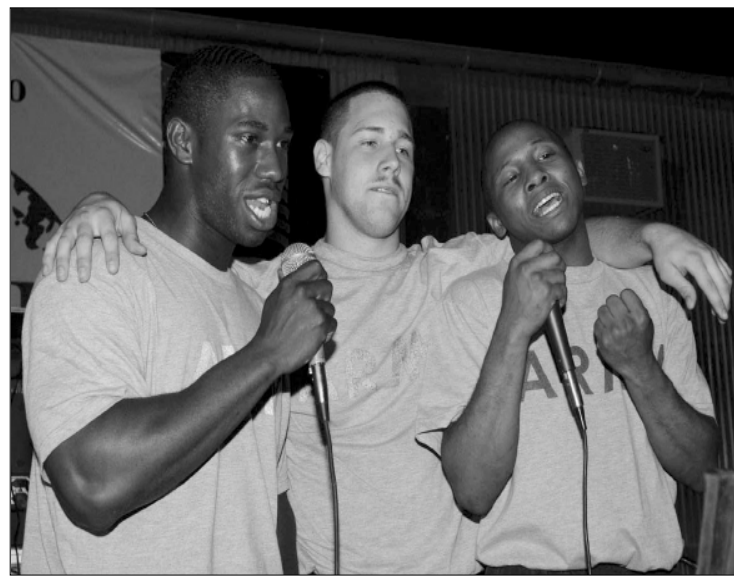
Technique 4: Be comically bad.

If you have no hope of mastering any of the above techniques, try just being pathetic. The key is to let the audience off the hook by showing that you know your performance is bad.

Pvt. Jacob Hanson, 22, a truck driver in Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, sang Kenny Rogers' "The Gambler" off key and out of rhythm — but he did it with such self-deprecating flair that audience members felt comfortable not only to laugh but to heckle.

The regular karaoke host at Bondsteel, Capt. Sam Wong, 29, seems to specialize in technique 4, chewing the scenery on songs by Neil Diamond, Tom Jones and Elvis Presley. On this recent Sunday, Wong made it clear he wasn't to be taken seriously — he threatened to keep singing until more audience members started participating. Wong is chief of the Multinational Support Cell, part of Area Support Group (Provisional) Falcon.

Choose your song, choose your technique and take the stage. No talent or alcohol required.



Above: Sgt. Amonds Mack, 22, left, a mortuary affairs specialist in Company A, 299th Forward Support Battalion, sings "End of the Road" with Spc. Matthew Poehler, 19, center, a signal support systems specialist in Headquarters, Task Force Medical Falcon, and Pvt. Jamie Mathis, 20, a fueler in Headquarters, 2-1 Aviation Battalion, during karaoke outside the Southtown Gym on Camp Bondsteel. Center: Sgt. Octavia Winston, 38, a medical supply sergeant in Task Force Medical Falcon, sings "I Will Survive." Bottom: Audience members show appreciation for a performance.





Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Unmanned vehicles take flight at CAS

By Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb
Staff writer

CAMP ABLE SENTRY – “We go where you don’t want to put a pilot in harm’s way,” said Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick Lewis, platoon sergeant, A Co, 15th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Used as the Army’s “Eye in the Sky,” members of Alpha Co., 15th MI BN are performing ground surveillances along the border of Kosovo, through the use of Hunter Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Hunter UAV’s), to provide force protection for troops on the ground.

The Hunter UAV is like a remote controlled plane, with the difference of needing more than one operator to control it. It is operated through a ground control station, or a cockpit, and a ground data terminal, which is an antenna used to send and receive information. Together, the system provides real, timely

video for the command.

During Desert Storm in the early 1990’s, Iraqi troops actually surrendered to a Naval UAV. The U.S.S. Missouri used the UAV’s to spot targets for 16-inch naval gunfire. The U.S.S. Wisconsin used its UAV’s. When the Iraqi troops heard the sound of the engine, they knew they had been targeted and soon would have 2000-pound shells landing on their positions. They signaled their surrender to the UAV using handkerchiefs, undershirts and bed sheets.

The Hunter UAV was first flown in 1991. In 1999, eight Hunter UAV’s supported the NATO air campaign against Serbia over Kosovo. During Operation Allied Force, the Hunter UAV’s flew 281 flights, spotting targets and performing damage assessments after bombings. Five were shot down.

Sgt. Jeffrey C. Bowman,



Photo by: Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb

Top: Pfc. Loyd Barton, left, Spc. Christopher Louge, middle, and Sgt. David Pillow, right, of Company A, 15th Military Intelligence Battalion walk a Hunter Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to the runway near Camp Able Sentry. The Hunter UAV performs ground surveillances along the border of Kosovo, providing force protection for the troops on the ground. Above: Louge and Barton finish maintenance on the Hunter UAV, and wait for a confirmation on the radio for it's nightly launch.

Line Chief, Alpha Co., 15th MI BN says that the Hunter UAV is an important part of military intelligence because it provides real-time, eyes-on intelligence information to help commanders make decisions based on what is actually going on. The Hunter UAV’s can also provide real time footage to commanders as the situation unfolds, so they can see the mission develop and make changes necessary to maximize the use of

ground and air forces.

Besides flying unmanned aircraft, A Co., 15th MI BN also gives enlisted soldiers the chance to fly. According to Sgt. Daniel Basset, crew chief, A Co., 15th MI BN, “When everything goes the way it should, and we fly in support of an important mission, you get a feeling of accomplishment. You know that you are making a difference. You know that your mission may have saved lives.”

Band brings down barriers, one beat at a time

By Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb
Staff Writer

CAMP MONTEITH – A shared love for music is helping close gaps between ethnic groups in Kosovo. Multi-ethnic band R B Funk, whose members are of several different ethnicities (Hungarian-German, Serb and Croat) and backgrounds plays rhythm & blues and funk while bringing together different ethnic groups in the Balkans.

The seven band members, whose races have a history of conflict, came to Kosovo to demonstrate multi-ethnic cooperation. R B Funk is primarily a Serb band and plays with local Kosovar-Albanian bands.

“There’s only one race – the human race,” said Filip Balog, trumpet and vocalist.

The band was formed when Bogdanovic and his friend, Zoran Vranjes, left their town in Vojvodina, Yugoslavia, and traveled to Athens, Greece as street musicians and entertainers. When they returned home, they met with

four other friends, Dalibor Henc, Bogdan Bogdanovic (brother to Boris), Mario Sevarac and Filip Balog, who also shared the same dream.

“We are coming from a place north of Serbia where situations don’t exist like here (Kosovo),” said Boris Bogdanovic, Bass Guitar. “We are good neighbors and good friends. This example should repeat to everybody in this country and all over the world. The only difference between us is our job or interests in something.”

“We had the same dream and came together as one,” said Bogdanovic.

R B Funk played recently at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Field House at Camp Monteith. They’ve performed in Pristina, Gnjilane, and Strpce and outside of Kosovo in Budapest, Hungary. According to Bogdanovic, they would like to play in New York City. He thinks if the band can make it there, they can make it anywhere.

“My father always said that if you believe enough, you could accomplish anything.”



Photo by Rebecca M. Grzyb

Dalibor Henc, drummer of R B Funk, plays for soldiers at Camp Monteith July 14.

Peacekeeper Profile



Name:
George E. Spaulding

Age: 33

Rank: Staff Sgt.

MOS:
Combat engineer

Unit:
Co. B, 9th Eng. Bn.

Stationed at:
Camp Monteith

Your duty position:
Platoon sergeant

Your role in MNB(E):
Keep our soldiers motivated and on their toes.

What city do you call home? Chico, Calif.

What do you like to do when you are off duty? Play guitar with friends in Schweinfurt.

Your Favorite Food:
Anything not from the DFAC.

Your favorite show:
“Frasier.”

Why did you join the Army? I just sort of knew that this is what I am to do.



Peacekeeper Profile

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Name: Lester Hisey

Age: 20

Rank: Spc.

MOS:
Intelligence analyst

Unit:
Co. C, 101st MI Bn.

Stationed at:
Camp Monteith

Your duty position:
Intelligence analyst

What is your role in MNB(E)? I work with the Russians. We inform them of what's going on with the U.S.

What city do you call home? Phoenix, Ariz.

What do you like to do when you are off duty? Play Playstation 2, drink cappuccino or watching "Anime" with my buddies.

Your favorite food:
Italian food

Your favorite TV show: "Dragon Ball Z"

The last book you read: Dr. Seuss

Why did you join the Army? For the college money. I had nothing better to do and to serve my country.



Alibis



Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Ahmet Bajrimi (left) of the 30th TMK Headquarters Engineer Group and Pfc. Chris Gambell, of Task Force 9th Engineer cut the ribbon marking the completion of the Route Lion Project.

U.S. soldiers, TMK complete road project

The completion of the Route Lion Project, Multi-National Brigade East's road bypass construction effort was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Strpce municipality July 24.

The bypass will divert traffic while improvements on the main road are under way. Soldiers with Task Force 9th Engineer and members of the 30th Engineer Group of TMK (the Albanian acronym for the Kosovo Protection Corps) Headquarters,

teamed up on the project.

Lt. Gen Marcel Valentin, KFOR commander, was scheduled to cut the ribbon opening the bypass. He gave the honors to Pfc. Chris Gambell, a heavy equipment operator with Task Force 9th Engineer and Ahmet Bajrimi, a member of the 30th Egr. Group of TMK Headquarters, the youngest members each team.

—By Spc. Jasmine Chopra



Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Change of command

Col. Randal A. Dragon, deputy commander of maneuver for Multi-National Brigade (East) receives the colors from outgoing commander William H. Hedges of Task Force 1-77 Armor before handing them to incoming commander Lt. Col. David S. Hubner Sr. during their change of command ceremony at Camp Monteith.

1-26: Get to know your MNB(E) units

Continued from page 5

26th Infantry led America's first-ever amphibious assault in North Africa, fought at the Kasserine Pass, assaulted Sicily, invaded Normandy, conquered the first German city of the war at Aachen, vaulted the Rhine and attacked all the way to Czechoslovakia by war's end. The regiment conducted 3 amphibious assaults, and earned 7 battle streamers, a Presidential Unit Citation, and 5 foreign awards for their colors. The price our regiment paid to free the world from oppression was over 2,000 Blue Spaders killed.

Beginning another occupation of Germany, the Blue Spaders were given the honor of bearing the United States National Colors at the Allied Victory in Europe parade, and were selected to serve as America's guard of honor at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials. Thus began a lengthy stay in Germany, first as conquerors and later as friends and Allies. Called again to serve in the United States after a reorganization of the Army, the redesignated 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry had a very short stay in the United States. After serving as a battle group in Europe in the early 1960s, the battalion rejoined the 1st Infantry Division shortly before receiving orders to deploy as a part of the Army's first divisional-sized unit in Vietnam in 1965. The Blue Spaders served longer in Vietnam with their Big Red One units than any other division. After five continuous years of combat the Blue Spaders received orders to return home in 1970 with 11 battle streamers, a Valorous Unit Award and two foreign awards for their colors. Hun-

dreds of Blue Spaders sacrificed their lives for the others to make that trip.

At the conclusion of Vietnam, the battalion returned to Germany as part of a forward-deployed brigade of the Big Red One. During the 1980s, when that brigade returned to the United States, the 26th Infantry was reassigned to TRADOC, where Spader battalions spent several years training recruits. In 1996, the battalion rejoined the Big Red One in Germany only to send soldiers to Bosnia as part of the first American forces to enter the Balkans from February to September 1996. The entire battalion followed the initial deployment from October 1996 to April 1997. In March 1998, the Blue Spaders deployed again to the Balkans, this time to the Republic of Macedonia. Returning briefly in September 1998, the battalion was the first unit alerted for deployment to Kosovo in June 1999. The battalion returned in December 1999, ending the century just as they started it — deployed in service to our nation. During this period they earned the Superior Unit Award streamer and the Defense of Kosovo streamer for their colors. Three Task Force 1-26 Infantry soldiers lost their lives in Kosovo.

In their first 100 years they have earned 37 streamers for their colors, fought 18 total years in combat, served 11 years in combat environments, and spent 68 years overseas.

SPIRIT: Generosity, kindness a part of soldier's arsenal

Continued from page 5

soldiers at the Morale Welfare and Recreation Center, who also provided hats and T-shirts. AAFES and Anthony's Pizza donated lunch, while Brown & Root Services gave cookies and drinks. Students and soldiers watched a movie

and played sports before the trip was complete.

"I've never in all my life had so much fun," said student Resmije Tahiri, 14, speaking through an interpreter.

"I never could have imagined such a wonderful place." Interacting with local

youths can help remind soldiers why they are serving in Kosovo, said Sgt. 1st Class Idelle Bailey, noncommissioned officer in charge of the directorate of security and operations for the ASG.

"These children are in re-

covery," said Bailey, a mother of two teenaged boys. "Coming to Bondsteel and spending time with soldiers is an opening of their mental borders.

"They are Kosovo's future, and they have the power to make it great."

Faith support

Let God pick up the pieces

By Chaplain Cpt. Daniel Middlebrooks

“Broken Toys”
It seems just when you think things have settled down and will be quiet for a few moments, the screech from the other room shatters the stillness.
“You broke my toy!”
Wishing that you could simply bury your head in the pillow that was supporting your arm, you pull yourself up. You walk not into a room of mild-mannered children, but into a war zone. As the “mighty warriors” prepare for their next move, you speak out in your calmest mommy voice, “What is the world is going on here!!!”
The two looked stunned for a minute and then the attempt to gain an ally dawns on them both.
“Mommy, he took my toy and broke it on purpose.”
“It was already broken. You broke it earlier and you are trying to blame me!”
Then the arsenal is unleashed
“Did not!”
“Did too!”
“Did not!”
“Did too!”
The ordnance of accusations flies thick like a swarm of mosquitoes on a hot summer night.
You ponder for just a minute, and with the wisdom of the ages, you make this special decree.
“Both of you are not to touch the other’s toys or each other for the rest of your life! Is that understood?”
They look up at you with that blank stare and you walk out of the room.
You think to yourself, “Boy, that was brilliant.”
Before, you may have said, “Wait till your father comes home!” and that would have at least been an avenue to help ease the tension. But now, daddy won’t be home for a while and you bear the weight of the kids for 6 months alone. It can cause many of the same emotions to rise up in an adult. The feelings of anger, resentment, isolation and the list could go on and on and on.
You are probably nodding your head right now and saying, “Yep. That’s me Chaplain Dan. You’ve been reading my mail, haven’t you?”
I don’t have to read anyone’s mail to understand the tension a parent goes through when it feels like the weight of the world is on their shoulders.
You do the best you can, but with every step, it seems the weight pulls you back two steps. Just when you fought hard to climb to the top of the ladder of achievement, you discover that it was leaning against the wrong house.
Let me stop and ask you a question. When it feels as though your world is coming apart (and we all have those days...yes even chaplains do), who is it that you go to, to fix your broken toy?
The hard thing about being an adult is that we feel as though we should be able to fix the broken toys all by ourselves, all the time. You’re smiling because you know that is not true. I may act like a handyman, but when the air conditioner in the house goes out, my wife smiles at me and says, “Before you pick up your hammer (my tool of choice), please pick up the phone and call a real repairman.”
We all need to know our limitations. God knows ours and he is waiting for you to bring those fragments of faith, those pieces of peace, and allow him, the master craftsman, to put them back together. There are two things he asks of us; to bring him the pieces and to let them go.
This simple poem I found by Lauretta Burns sums it up best.
As children bring their broken toys with tears for us to mend, I brought my broken dreams to God because he is my friend. But then, instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone, I hung around and tried to help with ways that were my own. At last I snatched them back and cried, “How can you be so slow?”
“My child,” he said, “what could I do? You never let it go.”
The next time you hear your child say, “Mommy, can you fix this?” let it be a gentle reminder of a heavenly father who always can.

FMPP can be religious experience

Chaplain’s Service is now providing a cultural and spiritual component for the Fighter Management Pass Program for all Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers. Participants of the FMPP will have the opportunity to experience a semi-structured three-day program of cultural and religious tours, briefings, and entertainment related to the history, culture, and religions of Bulgaria.

This program has been available to past rotations and Chaplain’s Services has worked with the Tourist Service Travel Agency near the Hotel Rodina in Bulgaria to provide the service.

Soldiers who arrange groups of 15 or more can receive additional group discounts through the travel agency as well.

This component of the FMPP trip will only be available on the Thursday – Sunday rotation. Worship services are available to interested soldiers early Sunday morning before the departure briefing.

The trip is \$55. The rates are made possible by USAREUR Chaplain’s Office grant money and the Bulgaria Tourist Service travel agency.

The following is the trip itinerary.

Day One: City Tour and Folklore Evening
After arriving at Hotel Rodina and checking into rooms, participating soldiers will be given a bus tour of Sofia with an English speaking tour guide. The city tour will focus upon cultural and religious sites. Following the tour, the group will be taken to the Vodenitzata Restaurant located at the foot of Vitosha Mountain. The restaurant features several different Bulgarian dishes. After the meal, the group

will be introduced to authentic Bulgarian folklore, rituals, and traditions as performed by a Bulgarian folk-dance troupe. Soldiers will return to Hotel Rodina no later than midnight.

Day Two: Plovdiv and Bachkovo Monastery
Following breakfast at the hotel, participants will leave for a one day tour to Plovdiv, Bulgaria’s second largest city, and Bachkovo Monastery approximately 140 kms Southeast of Sofia.

Plovdiv has preserved unique treasures from its 24 centuries long history and has a museum to visit. Bachkovo Monastery is one of the oldest monasteries in the Bulgarian lands. Founded in 1083, Bachkovo Monastery is chiefly known for its original architecture, rich collections of old icons, jewelry, coins and church plate. Lunch will be provided. Participants will return to Hotel Rodina no later than 5 p.m.

Day Three: Rila Monastery
Founded in the 10th century, Rila Monastery is considered the most famous monument of Bulgarian architecture and culture. The monastery is located 120 km south of Sofia. The monastery’s most treasured historic and artistic monuments include: the 14th century Hrel’yo’s Tower; the five-domed Birth of the Blessed Virgin Church; and the original 19th century monastery’s kitchen.

Participants will have lunch in the monastery dining room. After touring the buildings and grounds, soldiers will return to Hotel Rodina at 5 p.m.

For more information contact Chaplain Col. Vernon Chandler, Area Support Group, at DSN 781-3101.

Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Merard Meritil

Age: 25

Rank: Pvt.

MOS: Cannon crew member

Unit: 1-7 Field Artillery

Stationed at: Camp Monteith

Your duty position: Number one man

Your role in MNB(E): My role is to keep intruders out. I do force protection most of the time.

What city do you call home? Haiti, Port-Au-Prince

Your favorite food: Stu beef

Your favorite TV show: “Friends”

The last book you read: Don’t remember

Why did you join the Army? The September 11th attack.



Worship Schedule

(S) = South chapel (N) = North chapel (B) = both

Camp Bondsteel

Sunday
8 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass (S)
9:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass (N)
9:30 a.m., Evangelical Episcopal (S)
11 a.m., Collective Protestant (B)
1 p.m., Latter-Day Saint (S)
2 p.m., Gospel Service (N)
5 p.m., Unitarian Universal (S)

Tuesday
7 p.m., Catholic Mass (N)

Thursday
7 p.m., RCIA (S)

Friday
12 p.m., Islamic Service (N)
7 p.m., Jewish Service (N)

Camp Monteith

Sunday
9 a.m., Bunker Bible Study
10 a.m., Collective Protestant Service
4 p.m., Latter Day Saint Service
7 p.m., Catholic Mass
8 p.m. Praise and Worship Service

Wednesday
7 p.m. Catholic Mass
8 p.m., RCIA

Friday
12 p.m., Islamic Service in Annex
6 p.m., Jewish Service

Saturday
7:30 p.m., Gospel Service

Sports

U.S., U.K. enjoy 'friendly' battle on rugby field

By Master Sgt. Mark VanLeer
Staff Writer

CAMP BONDSTEEL — A casual conversation at a social event led to a more personal meeting between American and British soldiers on a rugby playing field.

"We were at a partnership event in Pristina (Kosovo) with the British Gundolf Engineers," explained Staff Sgt. Ash MacFarlane, Headquarters, 9th Engineer Battalion. "We got together with some of the leaders and asked them if they would be interested in getting together for a game."

Yes, there was a final score (7-0 in favor of the British team, from the 22nd Engineer Regiment) but the scoring was not what kept the fans from both sides following the action up and down the field for the entire 80 minutes. There were numerous scrums and rucks right on the edge of each side's goal line.

A lot of sweat and digging in by the players kept the ball from crossing the goal line more than once.

The sidelines were filled with secondary coaches who loudly voiced their opinions on how the action should progress.

The players on both teams

had varying levels of experience. Some had only been playing for a few years, while others started playing in high school, or even before that.

"I started in school when I was about 6 or 7," explained Sgt. Rob Jones, a member of the British team. "I've always enjoyed rugby. It's a hard physical game. I'm from Wales and it's a national sport there."

The American players didn't have the length of playing experience that the British players did, but they made up for it with grit and determination. Their spirit did not go unnoticed.

"I didn't think we were going to come and get as hard a game as we did," said Sgt. Nick Bennett, a player with the British side.

"Both teams were physically tough. Today was really good. A rugby game is a great way to meet people."

The tradition of Rugby involves the fellowship enjoyed by both teams after the game is over. "You see after the match, all the punches, all the hard tackles, all the choice words said during the game and 10 minutes from now we'll be sitting there drinking a beer together laughing about



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark VanLeer

Pfc. James Martin, Company Alpha, 9th Engineer Battalion, extends his arm to try and pop the incoming ball out of the hands of a British player who has the ball in his sights during a line out formation.

it," said 1st Sgt. Mark Wasson, of Company A, 9th Engineer Battalion. "It's always that way. Never a fight after the game, very seldom, ever."

After this game, players celebrated by drinking non-alcoholic beverages. The players will all have memories from the game that they'll be able to reflect on as time goes by. They'll also have sore muscles and tired bodies to remind them of the energy they put forth on the field. The soreness

will fade with time, but the memories of the game they shared will last longer.

"Tomorrow, I'll remember that I'm 38," Wasson said. "I won't be able to do much. It will take me two or three days to heal up. But I get a big exhilaration out of it (playing rugby). There's nothing like it. It's like you go out there on the battlefield, have a battle for 80 minutes and then you go laugh about it."

Learn the game

By Master Sgt. Mark VanLeer
Staff Writer

CAMP BONDSTEEL — A rugby match lasts for 80 minutes. There are 15 players to a team. Players spend a large portion of the game locked into tight groups with each other. At different times ruggers (players) lock arms and legs together in formations called scrums and rucks. In a scrum, most of the players on each team lock arms close to ground level. When the referee says, "engage," the two sides bang into each other and push for a favorable position. One player will roll the ball along the ground into the middle of the scrum. The players will push for a favorable position until the ball pops out and one team attempts to advance it towards the other's goal. A ruck is also used to advance the ball toward the goal.

A ruck is formed when the ball is on the ground in the field of play. At least one player from each team is in physical contact and closes around the ball between them. The ruck is finished when the ball is on or over the goal line.

There are four ways to score points during a Rugby game. A try, worth five points, is scored when the ball is touched down across the opponent's goal line.

A goal is scored by kicking the ball between the goal posts after a try, from a penalty kick or a dropped goal otherwise obtained but not from a free kick or after a scrum taken in lieu of a free kick. Goals are worth 3 points, except after a try, when they are worth 2 points.

Winner

Grant Strzelczyk



'Heavenly lights'

Details:
North town chapel with Venus in background 20 minutes after sunset on May 17.

Equipment:
Minolta XD-11 manual mode

Photo contest

Theme: 'Bondsteel at night'

Honorable mentions

Staff Sgt. Eric McKown



James Griffin



'Burning sky over Big Duke'

Details:
Big Duke on May 6.

Equipment:
Sony DSC-D700

'By rocket's red glare'

Details:
Bondsteel as seen from North town on July 4.

Equipment:
Nikon Coolpix 995

Think you can do better?

You may be right!

Upcoming themes:

Focus for the Aug. 15 issue (deadline Aug. 10): **Training** — photos showing soldiers doing training exercises.

Focus for the Sept. 1 issue (deadline Aug. 25): **After hours** — photos depicting life in the MNB(E) after work.

The Guardian East staff invites every member of MNB(E) to participate in a semimonthly photo contest.

Winning photos will appear in the newspaper and the winner will receive an MWR t-shirt. All entries will be posted on the Guardian East web site.

Send image files as e-mail attachments (one per message) to senior editor Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson at guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil.